

DEALING WITH MILDEW

APPLICABLE SURFACES:

Mildew is a major cause of disfiguration of indoor/outdoor, painted and unpainted surfaces. Organic matter-wood, paper, leather and paint are some of the more hospitable surfaces.

BACKGROUND:

Identification of mildew is the first step in its elimination. Because most mildew growth is black, it is frequently confused with dirt. A confirming test useful in the field is made by applying a drop of 5% sodium hypochlorite bleach. Mildew will usually bleach-out in 1 to 2 minutes. Sand or dirt will not be affected.

SURFACE PREPARATION:

Mildew growth is no more common on paint than it is on other materials, but it is usually easier to eliminate it from paint.

APPLICATION:

It is important that all of the mildew organisms be killed and the surface cleaned before a new coat of paint is applied. A method for remaining mildew is to scrub the surface with a solution of 1 quart of household bleach with 3 quarts of warm water. Use rubber gloves and eye protection. Let it sit for 5 minutes, and then rinse with water. Never mix ammonia containing cleaner with household bleach.